



## **SECRETARY OF STATE RUTH JOHNSON**

Ruth Johnson was elected as Michigan's 42nd secretary of state in November 2010 and serves as chief motor vehicle administrator and chief election officer for the state's nearly 10 million residents. She also maintains the state's official repository of records and certifies documents as keeper of the Great Seal and is second in line of succession to the governor.

As secretary of state, Johnson has changed the way the Secretary of State's Office does business. She reduced lines in branch offices by tripling online services with ExpressSOS.com and line management tools such as MI-TIME which allows customers to hold their place in line electronically.

Secretary Johnson introduced a comprehensive election reform package to clean up Michigan's voter rolls, toughen campaign finance laws, and ensure integrity in the elections process. She has fought to protect the vote of overseas military personnel and championed a special "Veteran" designation on driver's license for honorably discharged veterans. She has also expanded Michigan's organ donor registry through new policies and an awareness campaign.

Johnson's efforts are the latest in a distinguished career in public service. As a 3-term member of the Michigan House of Representatives from 1999 through 2004, she served as assistant majority whip and on the Veterans Affairs, Homeland Security, Education, Health Policy and Transportation Committees. During her time as a legislator, Johnson led investigations into the misappropriation of funds at the Oakland County Intermediate School District that resulted in the conviction of a public official and restored money earmarked for students.

In 2004, Johnson was the first woman ever elected to serve as Oakland County's clerk/register of deeds. As clerk for the state's second-largest county, she won 14 national awards for innovative services that saved money and promoted transparency and accountability. She doubled online services, put campaign finance records online and successfully changed laws to help families in foreclosure. In 2006, she was a nominee for lieutenant governor in Michigan.

From 1988 to 1998, Secretary Johnson was a member of the Oakland County Board of Commissioners. As commissioner, she tackled such issues as putting prisoners to work and instituting countywide performance audits that provide accountability in government.

A lifelong resident of northern Oakland County, Johnson is also a former small business owner. She is a graduate of Waterford Township High School and has an associate's degree from Oakland Community College, a bachelor's degree from Oakland University and a master's degree from Wayne State University, with honors. She lives in Holly with her husband, Don Nanney, a small business owner, and their daughter, Emily.

Source: [http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1640\\_9105---,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1640_9105---,00.html)